

H.771

An act relating to the Vermont National Guard

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 428 is added to read:

§ 428. RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN;

REPORT

(a) Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the Adjutant and Inspector General shall make a report to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2019 and annually thereafter regarding the Vermont National Guard's efforts to recruit and retain women and to increase the number of women serving as senior noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and senior commissioned officers.

(b) The report shall contain:

(1) the numbers of men and women serving in the Vermont National Guard;

(2) the numbers, by rank, of men and women serving in the Vermont National Guard as senior noncommissioned officers, E-7 and above; as warrant officers, W-1 to W-5; and as senior commissioned officers, O-4 and above;

(3) the change during the previous five years in the numbers of men and women serving in the Vermont National Guard as senior noncommissioned officers, E-7 and above; as warrant officers, W-1 to W-5; and as senior commissioned officers, O-4 and above;

(4) the numbers of men and women recruited to serve in the Vermont National Guard during the past calendar year;

(5) the numbers of men and women recruited or promoted to serve in the Vermont National Guard as senior noncommissioned officers, E-7 and above, during the past calendar year;

(6) the numbers of men and women recruited or promoted to serve in the Vermont National Guard as warrant officers, W-1 to W-5, during the past calendar year;

(7) the numbers of men and women recruited or promoted to serve in the Vermont National Guard as senior commissioned officers, O-4 and above, during the past calendar year;

(8) a summary of the current policies, initiatives, and programs to increase the number of women recruited and retained by the Vermont National Guard, any changes made by the Guard since the prior report, and any recommendations for legislative action to increase further the number of women recruited and retained by the Vermont National Guard; and

(9) a summary of the current policies, initiatives, and programs to increase the number of women serving in the Vermont National Guard as senior noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and senior commissioned officers; any changes made by the Guard since the prior report; and any recommendations for legislative action to increase further the number of

women serving in the Vermont National Guard as senior noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and senior commissioned officers.

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 363 is amended to read:

§ 363. OFFICERS GENERALLY

(a)(1) The ~~general assembly~~ General Assembly shall biennially elect an adjutant and inspector general Adjutant and Inspector General, who shall also be quartermaster general Quartermaster General with the rank of a major general.

(2) A candidate for Adjutant and Inspector General shall:

(A) be a resident of Vermont;

(B) have attained the rank of lieutenant colonel (O-5) or above;

(C) be a current member of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army Reserve, the U.S. Air Force Reserve, the Army National Guard, or the Air National Guard or be eligible to return to active service in the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard; and

(D) be a graduate of a Senior Service College, currently be enrolled in a Senior Service College, or be eligible to be enrolled in a Senior Service College during the biennium in which the candidate would first be appointed.

(3) A candidate for Adjutant and Inspector General shall, at the time he or she notifies the Secretary of State of his or her candidacy pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 12, certify under oath to the Secretary that he or she meets the qualifications set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(b)(1) ~~Such officer~~ The Adjutant and Inspector General may appoint a deputy with appropriate rank, an ~~assistant adjutant general~~ Assistant Adjutant General for ~~army~~ Army, an ~~assistant adjutant general~~ Assistant Adjutant General for ~~air~~ Air, an ~~assistant adjutant general~~ Assistant Adjutant General for ~~joint operations~~ Joint Operations, a sergeant major, and a chief master sergeant, without pay, with the approval of the ~~governor~~ Governor.

(2) The ~~adjutant general~~ Adjutant and Inspector General may remove the appointed assistant adjutant generals and sergeants and shall be responsible for their acts.

(3) Upon appointment, each assistant adjutant general shall be a federally recognized officer of the ~~national guard~~ National Guard of the rank of lieutenant colonel or above, and shall have a rank of colonel or brigadier general, and the sergeant major shall be a federally recognized noncommissioned officer of the ~~national guard~~ National Guard of the rank of master sergeant or first sergeant, and the chief master sergeant shall be a federally recognized noncommissioned officer of the rank of senior master sergeant or first sergeant.

(4) The deputy, assistants, and sergeants shall perform duties as the ~~adjutant and inspector general and quartermaster general~~ Adjutant and Inspector General shall direct. In the absence or disability of the ~~officer~~ Adjutant and Inspector General, the deputy shall perform the duties of that office.

(c) In case a vacancy occurs in the office of ~~adjutant and inspector general and quartermaster general~~ Adjutant and Inspector General, the deputy shall assume and discharge the duties of the office until the vacancy is filled.

(d) ~~The appointments~~ Appointments made pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall be in writing and recorded in the office of the ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State.

(e) All other officers of the ~~national guard~~ National Guard shall be chosen in accordance with ~~such regulations as~~ rules adopted by the governor may prescribe Governor consistent with the laws of this ~~state~~ State and the United States.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.